

### HEALTH EFFICIENCY.

Elsewhere in the JOURNAL will be found a report of the physical examinations of 1495 men employed by the Weed Lumber Company. Other companies are pursuing the same policy of having all their employees given a thorough physical examination, and the result has been remarkable in many ways. In the first place, a considerable number of abnormal conditions are found and recorded which prevents the laborer at some time in the future claiming that such abnormality was due to accident. For instance, out of the 1495 men covered by this report, it is seen that 37% had hernia, and that 46% had some trouble with their eyes, twenty being blind in one eye and 77 having very poor vision in both eyes.

### CORRECTION.

Through a mistake in the JOURNAL office, the proof of the advertisement of W. B. Saunders Company, appearing in the June issue of the JOURNAL, was not forwarded in time for certain corrections to be made. Graves' Gynecology was the book advertised, and the price should have been stated: cloth \$7.00 net, half morocco \$8.50 net.

### HEALTH INSURANCE.

The medical aspect of health insurance will soon attain the same importance here that it has already attained in New York, where a health insurance bill was presented to the legislature of the past winter. There, the bill introduced without hope of passage the first year, did not contain detailed provisions for the administration of medical care under health insurance. In the two months following the public hearing on the bill the American Association for Labor Legislation has been giving earnest consideration to the medical aspect, and now, upon the basis of suggestions put forward by representative doctors, it has drafted provisions for the organization of medical benefit.

These sections provide in brief that the insurance carriers, subject to the approval of the state social insurance commission, may select the method of administration most suited to local conditions, through either a panel of doctors to which all legally qualified physicians may belong, and from among whom the insured patients shall have free choice of physician; or through salaried physicians, with reasonable free choice; or finally through physicians engaged for specified districts. The merits and demerits of various bases of payments are carefully considered in the explanatory material accompanying the bill, although the bill itself does not yet contain provisions to this effect. Representation of the medical point of view is gained through a physician member of the state supervisory commission, through consultation with a medical advisory board, and through local committees. To avoid a repetition of some of the unfavorable foreign experience the maximum number of insured patients whom a physician may treat is specified. This will prevent an undue concentration of the insured patients among a few physicians, and thus

will prevent the abuses which result from an impossibly large insurance practice. This step, admirable in its intentions, might appear arbitrary, if it had not been worked out with the advice and cooperation of the medical profession.

It is upon such points as these, affecting both the character of the insurance practice and the physicians themselves, that consultation between the California Social Insurance Commission and the Medical Society of the State of California will be most valuable.

### "SCIENCE"—?

A gentleman named Cyrus L. Topliff, who apparently from his card is connected with the *Scientific American*, has sent in a little circular, possibly a reprint of an item from the *Scientific American*, on the subject of the cancer problem. It is rather interesting, as coming from one apparently connected with the *Scientific American*, to read the following, and in reading it, one cannot but wonder where we are going to land if such extraordinary views proceed from supposedly scientific sources.

"As the mind is the only power which can overstrain or weaken the nervous system, it is reasonable to suppose that we must first study the action of the mind over the body before we can discover the real fundamental cause of any inflammatory or malignant form of disease.

"Fear and worry are synonymous, and inseparable in a person's mind. Therefore, fear is really the fundamental cause of many diseases, and the various forms of such depend largely on what particularly harmful thoughts are combined with fear in each patient.

"If the medical profession fail to solve this difficult problem, it is possible that some 'layman,' who has given much thought and study to the subject, and experimented on scientific lines, may ultimately succeed in demonstrating the fundamental cause, and if it can be accomplished, then much of the mystery of all diseases will disappear and health and happiness will be much more general than at the present time."

### SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Herewith is a brief report of a meeting of the Committee on Social Insurance of the Medical Society of the State of California, held in San Francisco May 20th. Elsewhere in the JOURNAL there will be found some additional matter relating to this most important subject and a copy of the circular of information which was sent to all county society secretaries. A great deal of interest and enthusiasm on this subject seems to have been raised and it is a most fortunate thing that such is the case. The statement of Dr. Lambert, chairman of a similar committee of the American Medical Association, to the effect that in his judgment this is the most momentous and important problem facing the medical profession of the United States, is undoubtedly true, and its truth is